

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 694

By Southerland

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Ireene C. McLean of Greeneville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Ireene C. McLean; and

WHEREAS, Ireene McLean was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, since 1947, Mrs. McLean had co-owned and personally operated her own floral business, Ireene's, The Flower Shoppe; and

WHEREAS, one of Greeneville's most respected business figures, Mrs. McLean was renowned for her energy, frankness, and sense of humor; she was also the driving force in her family's business, which she and her husband, the late Arthur W. "Buck" McLean, purchased on March 1, 1947; and

WHEREAS, since her husband's death in 1999, Mrs. McLean had operated The Flower Shoppe in partnership and close association with her two sons and daughter-in-law, Dan McLean, and Alex and Shane McLean; she enjoyed the friendly partnership she had with her family and had no intention of retiring; and

WHEREAS, until recently, Mrs. McLean stayed active in the day-to-day operations of The Flower Shoppe, in particular taking customer orders and arranging flowers; and

WHEREAS, before opening her own shop, Mrs. McLean gained valuable insight and experience in running a floral business by working at what was then the Rhea Floral Company from 1937 to 1942, Greeneville's only floral business at that time; and

WHEREAS, Ireene McLean lent her time and considerable expertise to a variety of professional organizations, including the Tennessee State Florist Association, which she served as president from 1965 to 1966; and

WHEREAS, in March of 1995, she was inducted into the Florist Hall of Fame of the Tennessee State Florists Association; and

WHEREAS, a public-spirited individual of the highest order, Mrs. McLean was committed to the betterment of her community; she ran for the office of Greeneville mayor in 1954, and although she lost to the late Clark Kiser, she held the distinct honor of being the first woman to run for the office of mayor of that fine city; and

WHEREAS, Ireene C. McLean leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of Ireene C. McLean, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. McLean.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.